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28 November 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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South Vietnam: Premier Huong faces continued threats to his government even though disorders have currently subsided.

Nine of the 15 High National Council members have privately indicated that they believe there must eventually be changes in the Huong cabinet, but agree that this should not be done under direct mob pressure. They also feel that, to provide a safety valve for political unrest, the council should rapidly promulgate a law on the projected national assembly, while avoiding specific commitments as to the date of its establishment.

[Premier Huong remains convinced that there is Communist influence behind some council members and behind the current Buddhist attitude. Huong points out, however, that he has received assurances of support from the air force and marine commanders, and claims he has the cooperation of armed forces chief General Khanh.]

[Despite his claims, air force commander General Ky has alleged to General Westmoreland that Khanh is trying to undercut support for Huong. Ky strongly implied that if the situation continues to deteriorate, he will take action to force a change in the military leadership.]

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Congo (Brazzaville): The increasingly radical Brazzaville regime is moving against influential Catholic elements which are the last major strongholds of opposition.

The government is putting heavy pressure on the Catholic trade union federation which has resisted incorporation into the officially sponsored national labor organization. Last week the federation's leader was arrested. Many staff members of a leading Catholic weekly in Brazzaville reportedly were detained early this week.

The regime's harassment of US diplomatic personnel has also been intensified. The radical press has mounted a barrage of propaganda linking Catholics, Americans, and Europeans to "counterrevolutionaries." The youth movement is planning demonstrations against the US, UK, and Belgian embassies protesting the Stanleyville rescue operation, and the recently evacuated USIS building will probably be attacked.

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Sudan: Communists and other leftists in the Sudanese cabinet are exerting heavy influence in cabinet deliberations.

The Khartoum press has indicated that the cabinet is likely to accept the Communist-backed plan for a civilian supreme council composed of three "independents" rather than members of the traditional political parties. The moderates have urged a larger body representing these parties.

Committees have now been established to supervise widespread purges in both the armed services and the government ministries. The generally pro-Western civil service is a prime target of the leftists. Communists are said to have instigated the violent official reaction to the Stanleyville rescue and the ensuing demonstrations. Some demonstrators called for the regime to begin arms shipments to the rebels.

Moderates, although alert to the expansion of Communist influence, are fragmented themselves, and have thus far demonstrated little firm resistance. They are planning a demonstration today aimed at countering Communist calls for the abolition of the political parties.

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Cuba: [Political tensions appear to have increased among elements of the Cuban leadership.]

[Persistent rumors circulating in Cuba claim that an abortive "plot" against Fidel Castro took place during the week of 15-19 November. Some reports allege that various Cuban officials have been arrested.]

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[The regime's announcement on 18 November that "old" Communist leader Joaquin Ordoqui had been suspended from his party and government posts suggests that the pulling and hauling which has existed between Cuba's "old-guard" Communists and Castro's "new" Communist adherents may have reached one of its periodic peaks at that time. It is believed that in the past Castro has exploited this division in his regime as a means to improve his own power position.]

[This recent series of rumors has been]

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more consistent than in some previous periods of reported political uneasiness in Cuba. However, there is no indication that the regime's military or security forces--whose leaders are staffed with persons loyal to Castro--have split away, or that Castro's personal power position is threatened.]

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*Tanzania: The arrest on 26 November of five American missionaries for allegedly spying on a Mozambique nationalist training camp will add more fuel to the leftist-directed campaign to denigrate the US. The Algerian ambassador in Dar es Salaam who returned from Algiers this week gave President Nyerere new evidence to support earlier charges that the US was conspiring with Portugal and Leopoldville to overthrow Nyerere's government and destroy the liberation movement against southern Africa. Pressure from the radicals has left Nyerere confused and indecisive and apparently believing that Tshombé's mercenaries pose a direct threat to Tanzania. So far, he has failed to follow through on his promise to publish evidence furnished by the US that the initial "documentary evidence" was forged.

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